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THE EARLY CAPE HOTTENTOTS

described in the writings of

OLFERT DAPPER (1668)

WILLEM TEN RHYNE (1686)

and

JOHANNES GULIELMUS DE GREVENBROEK (1695)

The original texts, with translations into English by

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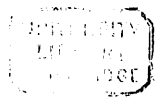
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[Photo from S.A. Museum.
OLD CAPE HOTTENTOT MALE.



The Van Riebeeck Society,
Cape Town,
1933.

V. Cl.
WILHELMI TEN RHYNE

Daventr.

Ampliss. Soc. Indiae Or. Medici, & a consiliis Justitiae

Schediasma
de Promontorio Bonae Spei;

ejusve tractus incolis

HOTTENTOTTIS.

accurante, brevesque notas addente

HENR. SCRETA S. a ZAVORZIZ.

3u... 457

SCAFUSII.

Impensis Joh. Mart. Meisteri.

Typis Joh. Mart. Osvaldi.

MDCLXXXVI.

A Short Account
of the Cape of Good Hope

AND OF THE HOTTENTOTS
WHO INHABIT THAT REGION

By the renowned

WILLIAM TEN RHYNE

of Deventer,

Physician of the most noble East India Company and member
of the Council of Justice.

Corrected and briefly annotated by

HENRY SCRETA S. a ZAVORZIZ.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

At the expense of John Martin Meister.

Printed by John Martin Oswald.

1686.

(Translated by B. Farrington.)

magna, sed in tenuissimum facile terenda pulverem. In ipsa albicat matrice, quamvis & niger reperiatur; ast cum ingenti adurit aestu canicula, sponte prorumpit facie micante albida, nostratium *commune sal* acrimonia tantisper antecellens, congruumque ciborum condimentum. Num quod, si quis in Africa (ut *Aristotelis*^{c)} tempore jam compertum) prope mare infoderit, aquam principio dulcem, post brevi salsam inveniet?

Cap. II.

De Brutis.

Montosa haec salitudo *feris brutis*, quam *hominibus* aptior habitatio est: hic enim nocentissimi armentis *leones*, *elephantes*, *rhinocerotes*,^{d)} *tigrides* seu potius *pantherae*, *lupi*, *alces*,^{e)} *hippopotami*, *agrestes equi*, *bubali*, *apri*, *oresitrophi*, *napes*, *arctopitheci*, *histrices*, *echini*, *putorii*, *lynxes*, *cervi*, *daxi*, *meles*, *lutrae*, *lepores*, & pulcerrimi coloris *onagri*, ac si nigro corio albas ordine inseruisset *strias* pello: *caprae*, *rupricaprae*, *ibices*, cum maculosi tum cinerei: *hirci rupisultores*, *felis silvatici*, tigriformes atque cani; *vulpiumque* quaedam species, quam Belgae *zachhalse* dicunt; rariores^{f)} *Tamandua-Guacu*, a *Brasiliensibus* sola magnitudine diversae. Ingentem sane beluarum copiam illic hospitari necesse est; cum millena aliquot brevi temporis intercapedine captorum, praesertim *hippopotamorum*, *alcium*, *ibicum*, consimiliumque pondera, a paucis venatoribus *Gubernatori* producta sint. Unde patet, quam graviter lapsus sit^{g)} *Aristoteles*, ubi in *Africa* (ubi *equi*^{h)} *non de-est belua dente ad mortes pretiosa suas*) non *aprum*, non *cervum*, non *capram silverstrem* inveniri tradit.

c) Lib. Problem. Sect. 23 probl. 21. (Aristotle's Problem is stated thus: "Why is it that in Libya, if one digs a hole near the sea, the water that first comes is drinkable, but afterwards quickly becomes salty, but this happens less elsewhere?" B.F.)

d) Premit advena dentes tigris, ut bibat humanum populo lugente cruorem. Petron. Satyr. (The stranger tiger snaps his jaws, that he may drink human gore while the people mourn. Petronius, Satyrae.) (The reference is to §119, lines 16-18. The quotation is garbled. B.F.)

It is white even in its natural deposit, although black specimens are also found. But when the dog days scorch it with their tremendous heat, of its own accord it splits and shows a gleaming white surface. It surpasses the common salt of our country somewhat in pungency of taste, and forms a most agreeable accompaniment of food. Can this be the reason why (as already known in Aristotle's time) if one digs near the sea in Africa, one first finds sweet water, then, after a little, salt?

CHAP. II.

Animals.

This mountainous desert is a fitter habitation for wild beasts than for men; for here are to be found lions, the cruel enemies of flocks and herds, elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers or rather panthers, wolves, elks, hippopotamuses, wild horses, buffaloes, boars, mountain-bred *napes* (?), baboons, porcupines, hedge-hogs, *putorii* (?), lynxes, stags, rabbits, badgers, otters, hares, zebras of a most beautiful colouring, as if a furrier had inserted white stripes at regular intervals in a black hide, goats, mountain goats, ibexes, both spotted and ash-coloured, springboks, wild cats, shaped like tigers and grey, a species of fox which the Dutch call *jakhals*, and more rarely *Tamandua-Guacu* (?), differing only in size from the Brazilian variety. In truth an enormous supply of animals must harbour here, for in a brief space of time a few hunters brought the governor several thousands of pounds weight of animals they had taken, chiefly hippopotamuses, elks, ibexes, and similar creatures. Hence we can see into how serious an error Aristotle fell when he says that in Africa (where there is no lack of that beast whose teeth are precious at its death) the boar, the stag, and the wild goat are not to be found.

e) Prodigiosae magnitudinis beluae, a me non semel conspectae, quas saepe cum vitae periculo venatum eunt nostrates: videatur Plin. lib. 8. cap. 25 & c. 26. (Beasts of enormous size seen more than once by me. Our countrymen often go to hunt them at the peril of their lives. See Pliny, Natural History, bk. 8, chaps. 25 and 26.)

f) Quas Marcgravius describit sub nomine Mienen detders. Hist. quadrup. lib. suo 6. cap. 4. (Described by Marcgravius under the name Mienen. *History of Quadrupeds*, bk. 6, chap. 4.)

g) de hist. anim. lib. 8 cap. 28.

h) Petron. in satyr. (The reference again is to Petronius *Satyrae*. §119, lines 15, 16. *Equi* seems to be corrupt. The passage in Petronius concerns the elephant. B.F.)